

Rainfall amounts, little expected through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, southwest 10 to 20 mph today, decreasing to 5 to 10 mph from the southwest tonight, southwest 10 to 20 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 40 to 50 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday.

Dew points, low 30s today, mid 30s tonight, low 40s Tuesday.

Drying conditions, fair to good today and again Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, light dew tonight and again Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine, 50 today, 50 Tuesday.

There is a 10 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs could fall to 24 to 28 if winds subside tonight and 28 to 32 Tuesday night.

No critical temperatures are expected over next several days.

Early season hay cutting will see fairly good drying today and Tuesday but a chance of scattered showers Wednesday.

Four inch soil temperatures are in the low 50s north and mid 50s central and south. Soil temperatures will hold steady over the next couple of days.

Soil moisture levels improved somewhat over the weekend but amounts were quite variable and some areas remain short in the topsoil.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 2, 2005, through May 8, 2005, is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to total near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am April 25, 2005

Temperatures averaged above normal central and south and much above normal north, averaging 57 degrees north, 56 degrees central, and 57 degrees south. Extremes were 89 degrees at Toms River on April 21, 2005, and 33 degrees at Long Branch and Pomona on the April 23, 2005.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.57 inches north, 0.25 inches central, and 0.19 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.76 inches at Belvidere Bridge on April 23, 2005, through April 24, 2005.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 74 percent north, 69 percent central, and 48 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 56 degrees north, 54 degrees central, and 55 degrees south.

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches -				- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -		
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	1.26	8.40	1.27	84	36	56	3	108	93	99
Canoe Brook	.27	8.29	.40	87	36	60	8	133	124	73
Charlotteburg	.53	10.19	2.47	81	35	55	5	84	84	74
Flemington	.52	9.75	2.20	86	36	57	4	98	86	76
Newton	.29	8.60	1.75	82	36	56	5	95	93	73
CENTRAL										
Freehold	.63	8.68	1.16	88	37	58	4	119	93	84
Long Branch	.04	6.99	-.79	79	33	48	-5	34	16	60
New Brunswick	.09	7.91	.73	87	37	58	3	109	70	77
Toms River	.31	7.32	-.25	89	37	56	2	84	64	67
Trenton	.16	7.38	.56	85	40	58	2	113	62	61
SOUTH										
Cape May C.H.	.15	5.88	-.74	83	40	56	1	67	26	36
Downstown	.18	7.29	.47	86	37	57	1	102	47	52
Glassboro	.33	8.53	1.35	86	41	58	2	126	75	65
Hammonton	.08	7.23	.26	87	36	57	2	112	65	37
Pomona	.17	7.05	.35	86	33	56	2	78	48	51
Seabrook	.22	7.96	1.90	87	41	59	3	158	101	55
South Harrison	.21	8.12	1.37	85	40	59	NA	137	NA	NA

*Departure from normal.

1/ Growing degree days since March 1, 2005, total and departure from normal or long term average.

2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

Field Preparation and Spring Planting Continues

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, April 24, 2005, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated 38% short, and 62% adequate. Irrigation water supply was rated 18% short, 77% adequate and 5% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state. Temperatures were above normal the first part of the week, but fell to below normal by week’s end. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops, along with some irrigation in localities where the surface soil had dried out. Other activities included fertilizing, herbicide spraying, tending greenhouses, laying plastic mulch, and transplanting greenhouse crops. Spring greens and potato planting continued, and sweet corn planting started in central and southern localities. Planting of spring vegetables continued in southern fields, and farmers were preparing for planting of summer crops. The first planting of peas was up in the central district. There was harvest of leek, arugula, green onions, radishes, cilantro and parsley. Harvest of asparagus began in the central and southern districts. Peach trees were in full bloom in northern and central orchards. In the northern district apple trees were beginning bud break. In some fields in the south, grape and blueberry plants had their final pruning, were fertilized, and had the first spray applied. Blueberry plants were ready to come into bloom in some central fields, and some cranberry bogs were watered off. Small grains and hay crops were rated in mostly good condition. Small grains are in the elongation stage and hay crops were beginning to green.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR APRIL 25, 2005

Arugula - Being harvested in minimal volume. Volume should pick up each week for the next several weeks.

Asparagus - Being harvested in light volume. Volume should begin next week.

Cilantro - A little bit of over-wintered product is available now and for at least several more weeks. Spring planted should be available by the third week of May.

Dandelions - Over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

Leeks - A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time.

Radishes - Harvest should begin this week. Volume should pick up later on next week.

Spinach - A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for another several weeks or so. Spring planted should be available by mid-May.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Beets - Harvest should begin in another three weeks or so.

Cabbage - Harvest should begin in late May or early June.

Collards - Should begin harvesting around the third week of May.

Dill - Should be available by the third week of May.

Escarole/Endive - Should begin harvesting around the end of May.

Lettuce - Should begin harvesting Romaine and Boston around the third week of May.

Parsley - Over-wintered product will be available in two weeks or so.

Strawberries - We grow the same Chandler variety as grown in California, with one exception. Jersey Fresh berries are picked when ripe and can arrive in our region's markets quicker and fresher than the competition. Our berries have more red interior color than white since they're physically more mature and ripe. They're grown in raised beds, under black plastic, with a large berry size, good interior color, and excellent taste. They're a better quality and better tasting product than berries from elsewhere. One chain was selling them at almost twice the price as other berries last year and could not keep them in stock.

Due to this winter's colder weather, the season is running just a bit late. Early harvests are expected to begin in mid-May, while the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of May, with lower volumes to continue through the first week of June.

Turnips - Should begin harvesting around the end of May.